

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are active in the present application. The claims are amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claim 10 is supported by the application as filed herewith. No new matter is believed to have been added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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\_\_\_\_\_IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--3. (Amended) A tape preparation for transdermal absorption as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2] which causes stratum corneum abrasion only to be a slight extent even when applied continuously for a long period of time.

4. (Amended) A tape preparation for transdermal absorption as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1 which is excellent in duration of effect on alleviating pains due to herpes zoster or postherpetic neuralgia.

5. (Amended) A tape preparation for transdermal absorption as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1 which is excellent in duration of effect on alleviating pains on the occasion of high frequency therapy or laser therapy, pains upon treatment of liver spots or dark red birthmarks, pains upon biopsy, pains on the occasion of skin grafting for the treatment of thermal burns, or pains on the occasion of treatment of molluscum contagiosum.

6. (Amended) A tape preparation for transdermal absorption as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, procaine, oxyprocaine, dibucaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, mepivacaine, propitocaine, and salts thereof.

7. (Amended) A tape preparation for transdermal absorption as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic is lidocaine.--